Tax on palmyra trees on patta lands.

11.15 a.m. *8 Q.—Sri S. B. Adityan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any tax is levied on palmyra trees standing on patta land;

(b) if so, the rate of the tax;

(c) whether the tax is levied throughout the Province or only in a few districts and, if so, in what districts;

(d) whether the tax is assessed year after year, and, if so, in what manner;

(e) whether the palmyra tax on patta land was part of the last re-settlement in or about 1908 in Tinnevelly and Ramnad districts;

(f) if so, whether the tax continues to be collected in respect of trees which have ceased to exist since the date of the re-settlement; and

(g) whether the Government have under consideration the proposal to abolish the tax, as part of land revenue reform?

The Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao :—" (a) to (f) A tax is levied on palmyras standing on lands included in holdings in the Tinnevelly district and in the Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of the Ramnad district, which originally formed part of the Tinnevelly district. For the purposes of the levy, the villages in these areas have been divided into three groups, according to the general quality of the palmyras contained therein and palmyras have been divided into two classes, namely, smooth and rough, according as they are found to be in a condition suitable for being climbed regularly or not. The rates of tax are as follows :—

Area.	Village group.	Rate of tax per tree.	
		Smooth. PIES.	Rough. PIES.
Tinnevelly district ...	I	8	3
	II	6	3
	III	4	2

Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of the Ramnad district: There is no village belonging to group I. Same rates for II and III group villages.

At the time of the resettlement of these areas in 1908–1913, all grown palmyras on each field were counted, the assessment due thereon at the rates mentioned above was calculated, rounded to the nearest anna and entered in the patta of the land of pattadar. The assessment so fixed is unalterable during the currency of the re-settlement, even though the number of trees may increase or decrease subsequently.

" (g) Yes."

Sri S. B. Adityan :—" Will Government consider refunding of tax collected in respect of non-existing trees? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" I have stated the principle, and I see no reason why it should be refunded. Because it is hard to collect a tax on sandy soil land this system was adopted. When we review the whole question we shall consider this question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is the revenue derived from this district earmarked for that district for its improvement, or is it treated as part of the general revenue?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" It forms part of the general revenue as there is no other tax for such lands there."

Recognition of M.B.B.S. Degree of the Andhra University.

* 9 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the M.B.B.S. Degree of the Andhra University has been recognized by the British Medical Council;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, why such recognition has not been accorded;

(*c*) whether the British Medical Council insist on fulfilment of certain conditions precedent to such recognition;

(*d*) whether the Andhra Medical College does not fulfil those conditions, and, if so, why;

(*e*) whether the provision of a deep X-ray therapy plant is one of the conditions imposed by the British Medical Council; and

(*f*) whether provision has been made for a deep X-ray therapy plant for the Andhra Medical College in the budget for 1947–48?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) This question does not arise in view of the answer to clause (*a*) above.

" (*c*) & (*d*) No information is available on these points.

" (*e*) No; but this is one of the main deficiencies pointed out by the Inspectors of the Indian Medical Council in 1938.

" (*f*) The question of providing a deep X-ray apparatus during 1948–49 for the King George Hospital, Vizagapatam, is under consideration."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, now that budget copies are being distributed, whether any provision is made in the budget for a deep X-ray therapy plant for the Andhra Medical College?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member may refer to the budget copy." (Laughter.)